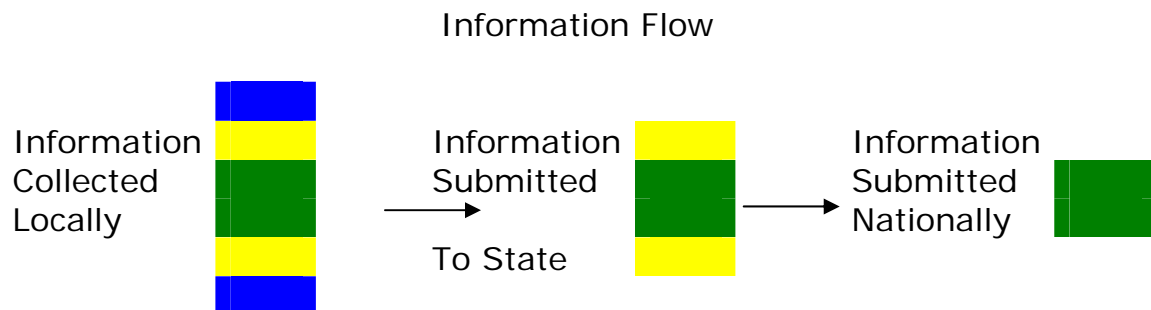~Idaho EMS Data System Upgrade~

The Idaho EMS Bureau is beginning the process of upgrading and modernizing its data collection system. The goals of this project are to:
1) simplify the data submission process for EMS agencies and users,
2) conform to a newly updated data standard – the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) 2.2 standard, and
3) participate in the National EMS Information System (NEMSIS) database.

The current dataset in use since 1994 is outdated. Over the past three years NHTSA has updated its Uniform Pre-hospital Data Set. We will be using the data dictionary from NHTSA's data set to pick and define the Idaho State Data Set to be collected by the EMS Bureau. It is the expressed desire of the EMS Bureau and the Fire Marshal's office to align the data collection process as much as possible; this should result in minimizing the duplication at the agency level. The collection of data will be the most extensive at the local level by the agency. Smaller amounts of information will be provided to the state. The state in turn would then provide the federal databases NFIRS/NEMSIS with their requested data elements.

Information Flow

Information Collected Locally   Information Submitted To State   Information Submitted Nationally

This process at the national level included the following partners, as well as others:

Federal Partners	Professional Organizations
Centers for Disease Control	American Ambulance Association
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services	American College of Emergency Physicians
Dept. of Homeland Security - FEMA	International Association of Fire Chiefs
Dept. of Homeland Security - USFA	International Association of Fire Fighters
Health Resources and Services Administration	National Academy of Emergency Dispatch
Nat'l EMSC Data Analysis Resource Center	National Association of EMS Physicians
Nat'l Highway Traffic Safety Administration	National Association of State EMS Directors

The Idaho EMS Bureau is implementing an EMS Data Stakeholders Committee to advise the state on patient care data elements appropriate for collection.

The data system to be piloted will be primarily web-based, but will also allow for local data input and then export of run related data to the Idaho EMS Bureau. It is the hope to do away with paper forms as much as possible because the use of the "bubble forms" has been a significant source of ongoing dissatisfaction for the bureau and the agencies using them. At the successful conclusion of this pilot a bid will be released for a permanent data system solution.

The pilot currently being planned will involve twenty transport and non-transport agencies across Idaho. Depending upon local system design, the bureau will be providing the pilot agencies with the software, computer hardware, and training needed to test the software used in the pilot. At the conclusion of the pilot the agencies and healthcare facilities will be allowed to keep the equipment.

During the pilot deployment the participating agencies will agree to use the software, submit the data electronically on a monthly basis, and participate in monthly conference calls and meetings to assess the project.

For further information on this project, please contact John Cramer of the Idaho EMS Bureau at (208) 334-5268.